



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Ms. Emma Best
MuckRock News
Dept MR 68686
411 A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Sent via email to: 68276-39940661@requests.muckrock.com

Re: HQ-2019-00489-F

Dear Ms. Best:

This is a final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested:

Copies of emails, memos, letters, reports, statistics and other records mentioning or describing the 2018-19 United States federal government shutdown (2018 December 22 - 2019 January 25) on the processing of FOIA requests or handling of FOIA-related litigation, as well as on other public transparency, disclosure or declassification programs.

Your request was assigned to DOE's Office of General Counsel (GC), Office of Public Information (MA-46), Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (AU), Oak Ridge Office (ORO), Idaho Operations Office (ID), and the Office of Science- Chicago Office (Chi-SC) to conduct a search of its files for responsive documents. This will serve as a final response for GC, MA, AU, ORO, ID and Chi-SC. DOE began its search on March 5, 2019, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents

DOE has completed its search and did not locate any documents responsive to your request. Therefore, pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 1004.4(d), I am unable to provide any responsive records for DOE. Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(23), I am responsible for the determination that no responsive records exist in DOE.

The adequacy of this search may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L'Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase "Freedom of Information Appeal" in the subject line. (This is the method preferred by the Office of hearings and Appeals.) The appeal must contain all of the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination



letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either: (1) in the district where you reside; (2) where you have your principal place of business; (3) where DOE's records are situated; or (4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact DOE's FOIA Public Liaison, Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, Office of Public Information, at 202-586-5955, or by mail at MA-46/Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

In our March 4, 2019 letter, you requested a waiver or reduction of fees associated with the processing of the request. For purposes of assessment of any fees, you have been categorized under the DOE regulation that implements the FOIA at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 1004.9(b)(3), as a "news media" requester. Requestors in this category are charged for fees for duplication only and are provided 100 pages at no cost. DOE's processing costs did not exceed \$15.00, the minimum amount at which DOE assesses fees. Thus, no fees will be charged for processing your request.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or this letter, you may contact Mrs. Michelle Burgess or me at:

MA-46/ Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585
(202) 287-6733.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,



Alexander C. Morris
FOIA Officer
Office of Public Information